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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 22 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The purpose of the present letter is to ask that you make arrangements for the General Assembly to meet in plenary session, beginning 9 September, at 10 a.m., to consider and take action on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, pursuant to its resolution 50/65 of 12 December 1995.

In that resolution, the General Assembly declared "its readiness to resume consideration of this item, as necessary, before its fifty-first session in order to endorse the text of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty". As you know, resolution 50/65 was adopted without a vote.

In Australia's view, the time to resume consideration of the item has now arrived, and we understand this view is shared by other Member States.

To facilitate action on this item, I have today submitted to the Secretary-General the text of a draft treaty and a draft resolution relevant to action on the treaty. I have requested that they be circulated as official documents of the General Assembly at the earliest possible time. The text of the draft treaty is identical to that given in document number CD/1427 of the Conference on Disarmament.

At the meeting of 9 September I would propose to introduce the draft resolution, in the name of its co-sponsors.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 8 and 65.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER

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